

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

By
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Portions of this program were omitted due to the fact that they did not pertain to Radio Free Europe or CIA in any way.

Now this has to do with one of the greatest human tragedies of modern times and the people who have been part and parcel of Radio Free Europe in what they represent to be, what Radio Free Europe represents to be, the mission of sending the message of freedom behind the iron curtain in Europe. It was after World War II, when the Russians were occupying Czechoslovakia and Eduard Benes was President of the country, collaborating with the Communists in what he thought was a profitable operation for him. Benes was a socialist and gathered around him a cabinet of socialists and Communists and, as I quoted to you last night, was very extravagant in his praises of Soviet Russia and the wonderful contribution of Russian Communism to the world. The Russians subsequently threw him out, but that is aside from the point for tonight.

After World War II was over, the Benes government ordered what is known as the Sudeten expulsion on the date of August 2, 1945, a copy of which document I have before me. As a result of that order, two and a half million innocent Sudeten Germans, occupants of the Sudeten land which Hitler had seized from Czechoslovakia as one of the provocative actions in advance of World War II--two and a half million innocent Sudeten Germans were forcibly expelled from their homeland and forced to find refuge as best they could largely in Germany.

It was an arbitrary order, principally for the purpose of making way for the settlement of displaced Polish people who were driven out of eastern Poland by the Russians, who seized that area as part of the spoils of war. Thus, the Russians seized eastern Poland, another territory which had belonged to the Germans. The people in those areas had to go somewhere, and the Benes government in Czechoslovakia agreed to expel the Sudetens from their lands and make way for the displaced Poles, Prussians and so forth.

There was no payment for any lands or property, and the Czechoslovakian state confiscated all property, revoked the

citizenship of individuals on an individual basis, which meant that families were torn asunder, wives separated from husbands, parents separated from their children. The basis for the expulsion was any record of German allegiance or cooperation on the part of the individual during the period of Hitler occupation whether real or pretended. If that had been so, the individual was guilty of cooperating with Hitler and, under the insistence of the Russian military authorities, his Czechoslovakian citizenship was automatically revoked, which meant that he or she had to flee the country for their lives.

There were, as I say, two and a half million of these Sudeten refugees, and their exodus from the homeland was one of the most tragic stories in modern history. They took with them what little they could of their possessions by mule and ox carts or by foot if they could do not better. Babies were born in ditches; the bodies of old people who could not stand the ordeal were dumped in fields without burial. There were epidemics of disease; people starved to death; people were frozen to death; people killed each other for a crust of bread.

And, as of today, the Sudeten problem is a festering sore all through north central Europe. There's a bitterness that knows no bounds. The Germans, the Slavs, the Magyars look on that purge of the Sudetens as the high crime of this century, as the great and unanswerable indictment of the government of Benes, the man who for his personal aggrandizement sold the country out to the Russian oppressors.

One of Benes' top ministers signed that expulsion order, a man who had been a writer and a leader of the people's Socialist party, his name was Hubert Ripka. And, like the editor Ferdinand Perutka, whom I mentioned several times with blood-chilling quotations from his writings, he was a collaborator with the Russians. He welcomed them into the government; he cooperated with them in rigging the elections of 1948, thinking he was furthering his own position only to find that the Russians had stolen the election. Like Perutka, Hubert Ripka had planned a brand of national Communism of which he would be a high and privileged figure. All this is a matter of abundant record, official and otherwise. I have stacks of documentation on his views which I shall present later. The important point for the moment is that Hubert Ripka personally signed the Sudeten expulsion order that led

to the death of 350,000 refugees, and he said later that he had no apologies to make and would sign it all over again.

When the Russian puppets came into power in February of '48, the leaders of the old government fled to Germany themselves, Ripka was one of them. When Radio Free Europe set up its staff in '51, with Ferdinand Perutka as chief of the Czechoslovakian desk, Hubert Ripka was at his right hand. He remained at his right hand with Radio Free Europe here in New York and was a leading figure, has been and still is a leading figure, in the so-called council of Free Czechoslovakia, which is virtually identical with the Radio Free Europe Czechoslovakian desk in staff. And I am informed that while Hubert Ripka, because of illness, is not active in the Free Europe operation at this moment, he is still on the payroll of the organization. All of which falls, you understand, under the category of sending the message of freedom to the enslaved people behind the iron curtain. "Truth dollars and Crusade for Freedom."